



Media Release

Pony Chuckwagon Championship Incidents

July 22, 2023 | Red Deer, AB – During Westerner Day's Pony Chuckwagon races, two incidents occurred resulting in injuries to a Chuckwagon driver and two equine athletes.

As soon as the incident occurred, our experienced staff, together with emergency responders, swiftly intervened to provide medical attention to the injured parties. All on track incident procedures were followed under the direction of the Infield Director and On Track Incident Emergency Response Coordinator.

Unfortunately, the injury to the equine athletes was extensive and the onsite Veterinarian made the humane choice to euthanize them.

During the competition, a Chuckwagon driver was knocked off his wagon. He received immediate on-site paramedic care. He was taken to the Red Deer hospital for treatment and is now in recovery. Our thoughts are with him and his family during this time.

While accidents of this nature are rare, we are unwavering in our dedication to learning from this experience and improving our practices continually. The well-being of our visitors, participants, and the animals is our top priority, and we will continue to prioritize their safety in all aspects of our events.

We appreciate the prompt response and professionalism demonstrated by our staff and emergency responders during this situation.

About Westerner Park

Westerner Park is central Alberta's largest tradeshow, agricultural, sports, entertainment and convention facility. A not-for-profit organization and agricultural society, Westerner Park typically generates \$150 million annually in economic activity, hosting over 1,500 events and 1.5 million visitors each year.

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